

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 4, 7-9, 11-13 and 16-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lindenman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,264,259). Claims 5, 6, 14 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lindenman in view of Schuettenberg (U.S. Patent No. 6,109,642). Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 10 and 22 would also be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1, 5-9, 11-16, 19 and 20 are Patentable

Applicants refer to the Final Office Action mailed March 20, 2009, and respectfully request entry of the enclosed claim amendments to put the case in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully submit that this amendment should only require a cursory review since the claim amendments presented herein do not add any new features and do not significantly alter the scope of the claims. Consequently, the claim amendments should not require any further search by the Examiner. Accordingly, the present amendment is an earnest attempt to put the claims in condition for allowance based on the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter.

In the present application, claims 1, 3-20 and 22 were pending before the Final Office Action. In that Office Action and the Final Office Action, claims 10 and 22 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and all intervening claims.

These amendments put the case in condition for allowance. Specifically, the limitation of dependent claim 10 has been incorporated into amended claim 1 along with

the limitations of intervening claims 3 and 4. Claim 1 should now be in condition for allowance. Claims 3, 4 and 10 have therefore been cancelled. Claims 5-9 were amended to properly depend from claim 1, as amended herein, and should similarly be in allowable form.

In addition, the limitation of dependent claim 22 has been incorporated into amended claim 16 along with the limitations of intervening claims 17 and 18. Claim 16 should now be in condition for allowance. Claims 17, 18 and 22 have therefore been cancelled. Claims 19 and 20 were amended to properly depend from claim 16, as amended herein, and should similarly be in allowable form.

Therefore, claims 1, 5-9, 11-16, 19 and 20 should be in allowable form and an early indication to that effect is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance, and accordingly, respectfully requests the allowance thereof. If the Examiner has any questions pertaining to the above, the undersigned attorney would welcome a phone call to provide any further clarification or a formal interview.

Respectfully submitted,

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